

Integrated Management Plan Stakeholders Meeting

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

November 21, 2005

Stakeholders present: Don Colvin, Burdette Cooley, Lisa Dominisse, Jim Goeke, Jim Hawks, Tina Kurtz, Frank Kwapnioski, Jim Meismer, Dudley Oltmans, Roric Paulman, Page Peterson, Dennis Schilz, Jerry Steinke, Mike Svoboda, Doug Teaford, Steve Van Boening, Joe Wahlgren, Robert Wiseman.

Stakeholders absent: Phil Armstrong, John Kilpatrick, Steve Krajewski, Marion Kroeker, Todd Kramer, Robert Petersen, Kenneth Schilz, Jerry Weaver, Mike Wheeler.

Resource People: Ann Diers, Ann Dimmitt, Kent Miller.

The Stakeholders Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. CDT.

Educational Presentation:

Platte River Basin IMP Stakeholders Meeting update – Ann Diers and Tina Kurtz (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources)

The second meeting of the Platte River Basin Stakeholders group was held in November. Discussion at the meeting included the following topics:

- A provision in the bylaws regarding voting. There was concern that decisions made by majority vote may set aside the consultation and collaboration process. The emphasis needs to be on consensus decisions rather than majority rule. Consideration of the Bylaws was tabled until the next meeting, when Jim Cook will bring back an amendment to address concerns.
- COHYST peer review: Overall, peer review of the COHYST modeling process has been favorable. But discussion revealed a variable knowledge about COHYST within the stakeholder group. Some questioned what other options the group had. Currently this is the only model available for the Platte River basin. Roric Paulman, who is also a member of the basin group, clarified for the IMP Stakeholders group that some at the Basin-Wide meeting were questioning what was used originally to determine overappropriated reaches and whether COHYST fits with what was used then. Ann and Tina responded that COHYST was used to draw the 28/40 line for overappropriated basins. Persons familiar with this model will address the basin group at the next meeting to explain it and answer additional questions.
- Platte River New Depletion plan: There was some discussion about whether this would be used as the starting point for the basin-wide IMP. No decisions were made.
- Presentation of CREP and EQUIP and how these could be used, and their relationship to the goals and objectives of the overappropriated basin group.
- Timing of basin IMP vs. individual district IMPs: There was discussion about which of these groups should be taking the lead in this process and what would happen if districts completed their work and then the basin group arrived at conflicting recommendations. This will be discussed further at the next basin meeting.
- The next meeting will be on February 1 at 10:00 a.m. at Quality Inn in North Platte.

Questions/Comments

We need a firmer understanding of what fully appropriated means and how we will get there.

It is unclear what fully appropriated will look like in overappropriated areas. In the first ten years we have to get back to 1997 levels, then in the subsequent ten years work back to fully appropriated. During this time we will work to define exactly what this means. [Note: this question was also discussed at the Basin-Wide group meeting.]

In the Republican Basin, will they be monitoring their allocation methods to qualify or track how they are managing the basin?

Yes. There is a Republican River model and a full time person working on this at DNR who will continue to update the model. [Note: this question was discussed at the TPNRD stakeholders group meeting.]

Which of the groups (Basin or District) should be going faster and providing direction for the other group? LB962 allows the process to happen on a concurrent basis, but this is an area of concern. South Platte is ready with a plan but can't move ahead without the basin plan for overappropriated areas. Central Platte has not yet started its group. A lot of what happens in district groups will influence basin discussions. Local discussions about overappropriated areas will not be discouraged. These talks can be helpful to the basin group. [Note: this question was discussed at both the Basin-Wide and the TPNRD Stakeholders meetings.]

The New Depletion Plan, in response to the Cooperative Agreement, uses the 28-40 line to determine the area within which the user or the NRD will be responsible for offsets for any new uses after 12/31/05. The IMP process is a result of LB962 and some are looking at a 10-50 line as fully appropriated. How do you handle this discrepancy?

The state is responsible for offsetting depletions in the Platte basin upstream of Chapman that occurred between 1997 and 2005. Since the entire TPNRD district is fully appropriated the 10-50 line is not relevant. However, the district can opt to use the 10-50 line for IMP management purposes if that is agreed upon, but this is not required to meet New Depletion Plan requirements.

Stakeholder Discussion – Goals

At the last meeting Stakeholders worked individually and in small groups to identify key elements that should be included in a final goals statement for the district IMP. Lists of the conclusions from these groups were posted on the wall and Stakeholders were asked to put different colored stickers next to each item to indicate their opinion as to the importance of including the item in the final goals statement. When all members had "voted" on the items, the larger group looked at areas of agreement and worked together to write an initial goals statement.

There was consensus that the following points need to be reflected in the goals statement:

- **All water uses and water users share responsibility for sustaining a balance between water use and water supply.**
- **This must be a flexible/dynamic goal.**
- **Maximize economic, social and environmental benefits of available water.**

One Stakeholder proposed the following goals statement to summarize these key points:

Manage our limited resource in a manner that will sustain a balance between water use and water supply maximizing economic, social and environmental benefits.

Stakeholders are asked to thoughtfully consider both of these attempts at a goals statement and be prepared to finalize the goals statement at the January meeting. If agreement can be found on the goals statement, the group will then discuss objectives (or steps) that would be useful to accomplish the goal. Objectives are general guidelines for achieving the goals statements and are not as specific as the recommended tools or controls that will be the final phase of this group's work. Tina Kurtz distributed goals and draft objectives from two other districts to give Stakeholders an idea of the type of steps that could be included as objectives in this district's plan.

Future Meetings

Monday, January 9, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. CDT

- Bruce Dodson (Agri Affiliates) and Roric Paulman (Producer and President, West Central Nebraska Users Coalition) will discuss Agricultural Needs in the Platte River Basin.
- Finalize Goals Statement and begin discussion of Objectives for the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. CDT.